

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION:

Please replace **paragraph 39** with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The cervical plate 60 defines two mounting apertures 64 and 66 through which the trailing ends 43 of bone screws 40 pass when the uniplate cervical system 30 is installed. Round aperture 64 is substantially the same size as the diameter of the trailing end 43 of the bone screw 40 such that there is no substantial play in the fitting between the bone screw 40 and the cervical plate 60. The round aperture 64 may be countersunk which improves seating of a locking nut 80 further reducing any chance for movement of the cervical uniplate system 30 when in place and secured. The round aperture 64 is preferably countersunk at about 66 degrees. The round aperture 64 is preferably offset, at its center, from a centerline "CL" passing from a leading edge 72 to a trailing edge 74 ~~leading edge to a trailing edge~~ of the cervical plate 60. The cervical plate 60 also defines an aperture 69 for the mounting of a cleat 70. This aperture 69 may or may not be threaded. The cleat aperture 69 is preferably located along the same transverse axis as the center of the round aperture 64. The cleat aperture 69 is preferably offset from the cervical plate centerline "CL".--

Please replace **paragraph 42** with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring back to Figures 4a-e, the size of the cervical plate 60 may be of any appropriate size required to perform its function. However, preferably the size of the cervical plate 60 from leading edge 72 to trailing edge 74 ~~leading edge to trailing edge~~ may be within a range of about 28 millimeters to about 43 millimeters. The width of the cervical plate 60 preferably is between 10 and 14 millimeters. The portion of reduced width in the central region of the cervical plate is preferably between 6 and 10 millimeters. The nominal size of the cervical plate 60 is measured from the center of the round aperture 64 to the center of the aperture 66 and may be in a range from about 18 to about 32 millimeters.--